the Urban Local Bodies as a vibrant unit of self-government, the Constiutbn /4'^ Amendment) Act was enacted in 1992. This Act provides for basic frame work of Urban Local Bodies alongwith their functions and powers. The 12'^ Schedule of the Constitution incorporated in by the above Act, provides an illustrative list of functions, which may be assigned by the State Governments to Urban Local Bodies. As municipality is a State subject, this Ministry does not give any directions to the State Governments regarding powers to the Municipal Bodies in planning and controlling the constructions in their areas of jurisdiction.

(c) A conference of Urban Development Ministers of North East States including SIkkim was held at Guwahati on 10'^ November 2002 to review the schemes under 10 percent provision for the development of North-East Region and Sikkim and also the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by this Ministry in the above Region. The Conference recommended for speedy, implementation of these schemes to create needed infrastructure in Urban areas to enable the Urban Local Bodies to carry out their assigned functions in an effective manner.

Use of Vacant Land at Rouse Avenue in Delhi

599. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA did not prepare any scheme for the use of the land lying vacant for years at Rouse Avenue in Delhi like construction of multi-storey flats or to have auctioned the land to fetch high prices;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action on the above;

(c) the reasons for allotting the land to two Societies;

(d) under whose recommendations/rules/regulations was the land allotted to those societies; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to get the matter enquired by the CBI and to bring the guilty persons before law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) The Delhi Development Authority has no land at Rouse Avenue and, therefore, the question of development of tand/auotion of land by DDA does not arise.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Conference of Ministers of Urban Development and Housing

†600. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of Ministers of Urban Development and Housing was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the decisions taken in this conference and the steps taken by Government, so far, to implement the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have asked the States to bring the stamp duty below five percent;

(d) if so, whether any time-limit has been fixed for the same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION {SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference of Ministers of Urban Development, Local Self Government and Housing held at New Delhi on 12th September, 2002, deliberated on the issues relating to urban sector reforms, municipal administration including amendment in Rent Control Laws, involvement of private sector in development of urban infrastructure etc.

(c) to (e) The Issue relating to rationalization of Stamp duty was also discussed in the above Conference. An Urban Reform Incentive Fund, which is a reform linked assistance to the States has been set up with an initial allocation of Rs. 500 crores. The assistance under the above Fund will be released as Central Assistance to Annual Plan of the States. Since, fixation of Stamp Duty falls within the jurisdiction of State Governments, it is perhaps not possible to fix time limit to achieve the objective.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.